

# **Maryland Commission on Climate Change Scientific and Technical Working Group**

## **Draft Work Plan 2015**

**Goals.** The Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG) will address five goals pursuant to Executive Order 01.01.2014.14, Strengthening Climate Action in Maryland. Each addresses one of the eight priorities for working group actions, (a) through (i), that are specified in the Executive Order.

- 1. Update Climate Impacts Report [Priority (d)].** Since the STWG's 2008 Climate Impacts report, scientific understanding of the pace, nature and consequences have advanced. In particular, the Fifth Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA) were completed in 2014. In 2013 the STWG prepared an update of projections of sea level rise for Maryland. In addition, the neighboring state of Delaware prepared an excellent climate impacts report for that state. The STWG will produce an update or series of updates, as appropriate, of its 2008 Climate Impacts report based on the emerging science and these recent global, national and regional assessments. The STWG will increase the emphasis on economy, revenues, and investment decisions in these updates.
- 2. Provide scientific and technical support for resilience strategies [Priority (f)].** Based on the aforementioned climate impacts updates the STWG will provide support for the Adaptation and Response Working Group in producing community scale climate vulnerability assessments to inform resilience strategies.
- 3. Develop scientific background to inform post-2020 emissions reduction trajectories [Priority (h)].** Setting emission-reduction trajectories for Maryland beyond 2020 should be informed by existing scientific and technical assessments of the emissions reductions required to avoid dangerous climate change. For example, such an evaluation was undertaken in the IPCC's Fifth Assessment and other assessments have addressed this challenge on a national scale. These technical determinations will, of course, be weighted together with national and international commitments and state aspirations to inform post-2020 goal targets and trajectories.
- 4. Improve technical effectiveness of inventory of GHG emission sources and sinks [Priority (b)].** The STWG will provide technical advice to assist the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Working Group improve the effectiveness of the inventory of Maryland's emissions sources and sinks.
- 5. Ensure sound scientific basis for communication and education [Priority**

**(a)].** It is critical that the Commission's communication and education efforts are scientifically accurate and credible. The STWG will work with the new Education, Communication and Outreach Working Group to ensure this.

**Tasks.** Over 2015 the following tasks will be emphasized.

1. **Membership of the STWG (January).** Finalize membership of a core STWG to guide and effect activities. Determine leadership (agency co-chairs?). STWG will engage the larger scientific and technical community on specific task groups.
2. **Organization and operation (February).** Convene organization meeting and establish effective means of communication within STWG and with other WGs.
3. **Vetting team for communication and education (March).** Establish a small team willing and able to review materials for scientific and technical accuracy and credibility.
4. **Climate Impacts Report Update (August).** Complete general update and determine which sectors require deeper analysis.
5. **GHG emission trajectory analysis (October).** Develop a summary of emission trajectory assessments.

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